What is Foster Care Candidacy?

Foster Care Candidacy - recognition that one or more of the children in an intact family maybe at imminent risk of placement into substitute care if the services outlined in the intact family service plan are unavailable, refused or ineffective.

Why is it important?

Intact Family cases documented as foster care candidates are eligible for federal reimbursement for the costs of providing case management services.

SFY 2014 Federal Dollars received from FC Candidate claiming = \$11.3M. This reimbursement is based on FC Candidate rates in the mid 60% level. Increasing the FC Candidate rate to 90% + (where it had been for over two years, 08/2010 – 09/2012) would generate an additional \$4M annually in title IV-E Foster Care federal reimbursements.

How is Foster Care Candidacy documented for federal claiming?

Documentation for federal claiming is formulated based on how the case plan question in SACWIS is answered and how the Case Worker responds to the Random Moment Time Study (RMS) phone pollers. The phone pollers will ask the same questions as are in the SACWIS case plan and then review the case plan to ensure consistency (federal requirement that it has to be documented). Please note that a caseworker can be in the process of completing the case plan, know how they will respond to the case plan question regarding Foster Care Candidacy, and respond accordingly to the RMS phone poller. The case plan just needs to be completed within 30 days of the RMS survey moment.

Case plans need to be updated at least every 180 days (federal requirement) to verify on going candidacy status. Please do not confuse the allowed federal timeframe with DCFS procedure requiring the plan to be revised every 90 calendar days.

How will POS and DCFS Caseworkers and Supervisors know how they are doing?

Reports will be generated and distributed via email approximately the 10th of every month. We will need to work with the POS agencies, POS Monitoring and DCFS Operations to determine the appropriate distribution. Below is a summary of this month's statewide results and an example line item from the detail report that will be distributed. Each respective recipient will only receive cases on their list that are pertinent to them.

This report will slightly differ from the intact dashboard statistics. This report is based on cases indicated as intact in SACWIS; the dashboard is based on open family cases in CYCIS with no children under legal guardianship of the Department.

Statewide Summary:

DATA As Of 10/7/2014	(in RSF	order / V	Vorke	r / Case Open Date)							
	Total	POS	DCFS	Action Required							
Total Intact Cases (per SACWIS)	2944	2518	426								
Intact Cases Open < 45 Days w/ no											
Plan, excluded from the calculation	364	276	88								
Total Intact Cases With Service Plans											
< 181 Days Old	2264	2016	248								
Percent of cases with Timely Plans	87.75%	89.92%	73.37%								
Cases Open More Than 45 Days w/ no											
Plan	165	98	67	Row is shaded this color to clearly identify - these cases need an approved case plan							
Cases with Most Recent Service Plan >											
180 Days Old	151	128	23	Row is shaded this color to clearly identify - these cases need an updated case plan							
Foster Care Candidate Question											
Answered "YES"	1594	1411	183	No action required							
Foster Care Candidate Question				The Candidate Column/cell is shaded this color to clearly identify - these cases should							
Answered "NO"	455	418	37	be reviewed to determine if "NO" is the correct response.							
Foster Care Candidate Question Left				The Candidate Column/cell is shaded this color to clearly identify - these cases should							
Blank (N/A)	366	315	51	be reviewed - the candidate question needs a response							
Foster Care Candidate Percentage	66.00%	65.81%	67.53%								

Example of the information that will be contained in the detail report that is distributed:

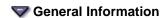
								Age of Case							
FAMILY								in Days If							
CASE								There Is No							
NAME	CASEID	CYCIS ID	Case Open	Serv ID	Serv Aprv DT	Candidate	SP Duration	Service Plan	Approved	Worker ID	Worker Name	AGENCY	RSF	Team Name	Worker Phone
Smith	999999	X9999900	04/16/2014	420816	05/23/2014	Yes	137		Approved	99999999	Colt McCoy	DCFS	1A 99	Joliet Intact	(312) 555-5555

What action is expected with this information?

- 1. Each recipient should review and distribute the report to the appropriate team supervisors and caseworkers.
- 2. All cases on the report should be reviewed; paying specific attention to the cases marked "No", "N/A" or blank.
- 3. If the initial case plan is not yet complete and the case has been open for 45 days or longer, please take the necessary steps to complete and approve the plan. If the case plan is more than 180 days old, if appropriate revise it.
- 4. If the case is something other than an intact case, reply back to the report distribution email address to inform us of the case and the case type. This will help improve the reliability of the report.
- 5. If the case is already closed by the time you are working the report, no action is required. It will not appear on the subsequent report.

This is how the question appears in the case plan:

Service Plan



Yes No N/A

Is the child or are the children candidates for substitute care based on the following question: If the services outlined in this plan are refused or ineffective, will the outcome for the child or children be substitute care (e.g. foster care, relative family home, group home, childcare or other institution)?

My Contact Information:

Birdell Fry (217) 535-2296 ext. 209 Birdell.Fry@illinois.gov

Foster Care Candidacy Summary as of 10-07-2014

